Bhutan King's visit to India

760. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhutan's King, Jigme Singhe Wangchuk, visited India during the month of November, 1990,

(b) if so, the names of the Indian leaders he met;

(c) the nature of talks held with Indian leaders;

(Id) whether, any agreement has since been signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA' CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. The King of Bhutan pa: d a four day visit to India during iNovfember 23—26, 1990[!].

(b) During his visit, the King of Bhutan called on the President, Shri R. Venkataraman. He also met the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister.

(c) The discussions held with the Indian leaders centered round bilateral, regional and multi-lateral issiies of mutual concern.

(d) A memorandum of Understanding was signed between. India and Bhutan on the 25th of November 1990, to prepare the Detailed Project Reports on the Tala Hydroelectric Project (Chukha II) and Wangohu Reservoir Scheme (Chukha iU).

(e) The Tala Hydroelectric Project is a run of the river scheme and is expected to have and installed capacity of 1000 MW. The Wangchu Reservoir 9ch«|me involves the construction of a rock filled dam and is estimated to have an installed capacity of 5u0— 600 MW. The Detailed Project Reports are expected to be ready by December, 1993. The Memorandum of Understanding is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CLVT, Annexure No. 16]

Foreign Secretary's visit to Washington

761. SHRI PRABHAKARRAO KALVALA; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary visited Washington during the month of September, 1990;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit;

(c) the nature of discussions held between the Foreign Secretary of India and the U. S. leaders; and

(d) whether any agreement has sirce been signed during the visit and if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA' CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Foreign Secretary's visit to the US in September 1990 was in keeping with the well-established practice °& periodic Indo-US bilateral consultations. During his visit, the Foreign Secretary discussed Indo-US bilateral issues as well as a number of international issues of current importance.

(d) No, Sir.

Irrigation works in dry land areas

762. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state-

(a) whether during the 8th plan period irrigation works in dry land areas will be strengthened;

(b) if so, the total dry lanj areas that will be covered during 8th plan:

(c) whether any concrete schemes have been prepared in this regard; and

(d) if so, whether Madhya Pradesh is also one of the States v, here the dry land works will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) The proposals for the Vill Five "Sear Plan for creating additional irrigation facilities have not yet been finalised. However the additional irrigation potential that would be created during Vill Plan through ongoing and new schemes, would benefit the dry land areas in Madhya Pradesh also. In the Vill Plan, thrust will remain on completion of ongoing schemes.

Emergency Food Aid *to the* Soviet Union

763. SHRI G. G. SWELL; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased t_0 state:

(a) whether lndia have rushed emergency food aid to the Soviet Union;

(b) the amount of food delivered and the break-up of items; and

(c) whether the quantity of food that the Soviet Union. will need has bee_n assessed and if so, over what period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Government have decided to provide USSR one million tonnes of wheat on a loan basis, as well as a gift of 20, 000 tonnes of rice and othp essential items such as medicines, medical supplies and processed food items. The first consignment consisting of medicine and food items has been sent by a special flight 021 27th Dec^r tuber, 1990.

(c) According to Soviet estimates,, additional imports of Roubles 10 billion would be required in 1991 to tide over the present shortages.

Visit of former Minister of External Affairs to Kuwait

764. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF FAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Minister of External Affairs had visit ed Kuwait in August, 1990 after its occupation by Iraq;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he was the first Foreign Minister of another country who had visited Kuwait;

(c) whether it is also a fact that he travelled in a special chartered plane, known as "Millionarie Flight"; and

(d) if so, the list of those Indian nationals who were evacuated by the then Minister of External Affairs in this Millionarie Flight and what was the basis of their selection to traveL with him in that flight?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL. AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Cc) and (d) No, Sir. The Minister of External Affairs travelled in an Indian, Air Force transport aircraft on which 256 Indian nationals were brought to India, selected on the basis of medical or other exigencies and the recommendations of the local organi-sations of Indians.

News item captioned 'Madras Tele-phones face Equipment Supply Crunch'

765. SHRI R. GANESAN alias MISA R. GANESAN;

SHRl V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state: